

How to Administer IM and SC Injections to Adults

For Intramuscular (IM) Injections

Administer these vaccines via IM route:

Tetanus, diphtheria (Td) with pertussis (Tdap); hepatitis A; hepatitis B; inactivated influenza; and meningococcal conjugate (MCV4). Administer inactivated polio (IPV) and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV23) either IM or SC.

Injection site:

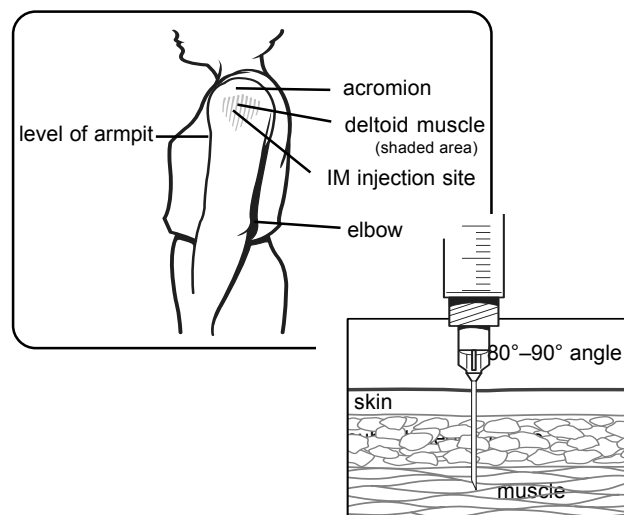
Give in the thickest and central portion of the deltoid—above the level of the armpit and below the acromion (see the diagram).

Needle size:

22–25 gauge, 1" to 1-1/2" needle

Needle insertion:

- Use a needle long enough to reach deep into the muscle.
- Insert the needle at an 80°–90° angle to the skin with a quick thrust.
- Two injections given in the same deltoid muscle should be separated by a minimum of 1", if possible.



For Subcutaneous (SC) Injections

Administer these vaccines via SC route:

MMR, varicella, and meningococcal polysaccharide (MPSV4). Administer inactivated polio (IPV) and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV23) either SC or IM.

Injection site:

Posterolateral aspect of upper arm

Needle size:

23–25 gauge, 5/8" needle

Needle insertion:

- Pinch up on the tissue to prevent injection into muscle. Insert the needle at a 45° angle to the skin.
- Two injections given in the same area of fatty tissue should be given a minimum of 1" apart.

